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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The role of NGOs to draw a realistic prioritized perspective of the human rights of vulnerable groups, particularly children

When it comes to studying the human rights issues and dealing with violations around the world, target groups are being selected to be defended by defenders through various investigation methods; however, in some circumstances the determination methods to choose vulnerable communities from the view point of human rights do not consider justice fairly. In such a manner that, some particular issues or groups are being under the meticulous contemplation of the special reporters or the mass media; meanwhile, in the same geographical area some other defenseless parties are getting disregarded or paid less attention. For instance, when the human rights situation in states is reviewing, political prisoners issues are usually highlighted in the reports; but the violations of children's rights are less under considerations. Even at the time these subjects are under examination, pertinent bodies do not place emphasis on them as much as the high political controversial issues. The question is whether this ignorance is a deliberate one or not? If this is not deliberately, the mechanisms of prioritizing the process of selecting and reviewing human rights issues should be revised to lessen the injustice.

To illustrate the mentioned idea, we can compare two target groups of the human rights defenders, political prisoners and socially disadvantaged children. Mainly, no one opposes defending human rights of political prisoners. But, we think the two target groups are not at the same priority to come under the same level of supervision by defenders. The difference between a political prisoner and a socially disadvantaged child is that the former one has been well aware of the hardships of his or her choice; however, the child had no rights to choose his or her plights. The prisoner has chosen a way with respect to some objectives and ideals, but the child we are talking about was born in an affliction. The child was not aware of the plights has to be faced with. Moreover, it is been observed that some political prisoners in their tough conditions in the prison, attempted not to get affected by the situation and improved themselves to combat their ideals. Today in some states under review of human rights defenders, we witness both target groups; one is under widespread media coverage; but in the same geographical area, defending the human rights of the other party – innocent children - has left behind.

Nowadays, in some states we witness some innocent children have lost their primitive rights of living including the right of having food, water, cloths, shelter, education, happiness and playing. Children whom their rights are being trampled in the prison of loneliness and marginalization every day; and less defenders are talking about their sounds to be heard. The issue is especially observable in undeveloped and developing countries. The most important reason that the mentioned children are living in such severity is geographical force. Moreover, social conflicts such as the family conditions these children are born in are another influential issue.

Besides, from the personal point of view, human rights violations have physical and spiritual consequences on the people. The sprit and body of the aforementioned children are forced to be suffered every day. In another point of view, it can be stated that these children - child labor, addicted children, children forced to work in unethical businesses and child soldiers - who are obliged to live in some tragic conditions from the early ages, are the everlasting captive prisoners of the Guantanamo jail of the history of human beings.

Appointed children are usually deprived of secure environment, affection, emotional supports and psychological defense mechanisms. There are cases in which parents are the first enemy of suffering children; so, they are being exploited for doing laboring from childhood by their families and somehow have to do beggary. In worse conditions children are being sold hand by hand. Unfortunately, in some states civil laws do not support their conflicts thoroughly and effectively. It is obvious, when parents are the enemies of the child and the society does not have sufficient capacities to adjudicate on their rights, the child will lose its reliance to everyone and becomes an anti-social person. Such a person is the best choice for being recruited by extremists to act as social suppressors, extremist soldiers, or suicide bombers. It seems following the current vision upon disregarding and neglecting the issue by the international community, the extremism would always have its own entrants.

In this regard:

It is recommended, the special reporters and the council while investigating and reviewing human rights violations in a particular state, benefit from comments, Statistics and Information of NGOs active in the field and area to prioritize the vulnerable groups. They should not base their decisions only on governmental or individual reports.

Moreover, the decisions of the council in determination of target groups that require human rights protections should not be influenced by the mass media streams.